

# THE REHEARSAL

Of the Ministry. And the Revolution.

From Saturday August the 12th to Saturday August the 19th, 1704.

*Country-m.* I Am as Proud of my New Post, Master *Observer*, as you are of yours.

*Obs.* What Post hast thou got? Honest *Country-man*.

*Country-m.* Since thou wert made the *Publick Vindicator* of the Revolution, the Town (I will not be so *Prophane* and *Conceited* as Thou art, to put it upon Providence) has made me Thy *Rehearser*. Is not that thy *Secretary*, Master, or something like it? And thou being now a *Publick Minister*, if not of Providence, yet of *Legion*, of our *Sovereign Lord* the People, then I am *Secretary of State*, am I not? And henceforth I must *Counter-sign* thy *Observers*, and be Answerable for them.

But I begin in an ill time. For thy last *Wednesday's Observer*, Aug. 9. is *Langh'd* at all over the Town, and *Despis'd* by our own Friends. For want of *Sense* thou art gone to *Rhime*. And thy *Verses* are such *Doggrel*, and full of *Nastiness*, as turns every bodies *Stomach*. Therefore I'll go back to thy former *Observers*. And we'll Talk a little of the Subject of the *Ministry* we were last upon.

*Obs.* I would have thee well Instructed in that Point, because it is of great Consequence. Know then, That the *Tories* and *High flyers* call the King (or Queen) the *Minister of God*, and as such, *Accountable* only to God. And all that have *Commission* from the King, they call the *KING's Ministers*. And these are they whom they mean by the *Ministry*, and so Include not the King under that Denomination, but those only who are put in Authority under Him.

But on the other hand, We *Whiggs* (now *Countryman* take notice) do Include the King (or Queen) under the Name of the *Ministry*, as being set up and made by the People, and so are *Ministers of the People*, and *Accountable* to them, for their *Male Administrations*; to be *Depos'd* and even *Executed* by them, as any other common *Malefactor*. And the King (or Queen) is likewise Answerable for all those *Ministers* whom He (or She) Employs under Him (or Her) Therefore when we *Blacken* and *Defame* the *Ministry*, it is a *Direct Attacking* of Him (or Her) who Employs them. By this Method we carry'd our Ends against K. Char. I. and K. Jam. II. And hope to carry them on still. Besides, my dear *Country-man*, the *Ministry* being the *Life* and *Soul* of the Government, without which the Government is Dead, and nothing but a Word, for what Government is it that is not *Administred*? And how can it be *Administred* without a *Ministry*? Therefore when I still keep to my old Distinction betwixt the GOVERNMENT and MINISTRY of ENGLAND,

as I told thee; this is parting of *Soul* and *Body*, which we call *Death*. And it is a *direct Dissolution* of the Government. But these *Dunder-heads* do not see it. I'll tell thee *Country-man*, I'll undertake as *Silly* a Fellow as I am, to Break any Government in the World, if they'll give me Leave to *Blacken* and *Asperse* the *Ministry*, as *Publickly* and *Bravely* as I do in England. To tell them, as I do in my *Observer* of last March 11. 1703. I am Ready to Answer in Court to any *Indictment*, where I expect to have fair Play, and not be *Condemned* without being Heard: Which will be the Practice of our Courts of Justice, as long as our present Judges are in Being.

Then to fall upon our *Admirals* and *Generals*, and Name them by Name, as I do Sir George Rook in many of my *Observers*, even in my last of Aug. 16. and Represent him in most *Scandalous* manner.

And to say of Another great General, as I do in my *Observer* of May 13. 1704. It has been my fortune to be in a *Fighting Army*, under a General that we now dearly want, who did not use to Return from the War, SINCE CLADE VICTOR; And then Ride in Triumph over his Queen in a Medal.

O Dear Liberty and Property! Who would Live in a Country where he could be *Restrained* from this?

In short *Country-man*, we will have none that are for the Church to be either Judges or Generals, or Admirals, or in any other Office, either Ecclesiastical, Civil, or Military. We'll Talk them out, we'll Rail them out; we'll *Observer* them All. We can make one an Hero, for being always Beaten, if he be on our side. And let the others Fight or not Fight, we'll be at 'em. In mine of Saturday last. Aug. 12. I was upon the Admiralty again and the whole Management of our Sea Affairs: I name, The Return of the THOLOUN Squadron, the Affairs of PONTI, the late Inglorious Action of GRAYDON, the Treachery at CAMARET, with many other like Instances. Then I bring my Charge Home upon the Government, That the Actors in those Dishonourable Scenes have been so slightly Punish'd. This will stir up the Mob, to think all Wrong at Court. And you know the next things is, to think of a Remedy.

That Bull-Dog of Cassandra has Chas'd me from one to another, till he brought me (Part 2. p. 17.) where I fall foul upon his Royal Highness the Prince himself, and tell him plainly, That the Highest Office in England, is not above the Law of England. And that the Laws of England were made to Detect and

and Punish Offenders. This put me a little Agast, But I was Clapp'd on the Back, and bid Stand to it. That 'I had a Party wou'd stand by me, who had Greater Work than this for me to do. And so I did. And Answer'd boldly in my *Observer* of last July 19. That as to the Charge of no Justice being done by the Prince or his Council, for the Publick Sefity, but the Guilty Persons still Contin'd to be Employ'd, notwithstanding the Proofs made of their Embezelments of the Stores, &c. I Answer, That it is matter of Fact, which I am ready to Prove in Open Court, if I am Prosecuted for so saying; As it has already been Prov'd before the Right Honourable the House of Lords.

Country-m. And had you no Justice there neither? Is not this a sort of an Accusation against the Justice of the Lords too? Why did you not go to my Queen? I am sure she wou'd have done you Justice.

Obf. I have told thee often, That the Crown it self is but an Office, like that of the Lord Mayor or Sheriffs; which is the Reason I give in my *Observer* (Vol. 2. N. 25) That the Regal Dignity can never be Hereditary. And being but an Office you know, The Highest Office in England, is not above the Law of England, &c. as I apply'd it to the Prince. And it is Her Office, not His, that is the Highest Office in England. And I told thee last time we Met, That I owe her no more Respect than according to the Loy.

Country-m. O Ho! I now begin to Smell a Rat! Now I'll be upon thy Bones, in behalf of my Dear Queen, for all thy French. Thou say'st thy Loyalty is limited by Law. And thou wilt give no More. Wilt thou give as Much then? And we shall Agree. Wilt thou own those Acts of Parliament Quoted in my last, That there is no Coercive Power over my Queen, either in Lords, Commons, or the People? That none of them, nor All together have any Legislative Power without the Queen? Or, wilt thou say, That this is not Law? That these Acts of Parliament are not still in Force? Or, That an Act of Parliament is not Law? Thou art Peeg'd down, Bays, Thou must Answer Directly to these things. They are plain Questions. And thy Loy and Loyalty will not help thee. If thou Shuffle, or give a Cart-load of Ill Names, it will but make the more Ridiculous. And I'll tell thee, not only I my self, but all my Honest Country-men, who have been so long led by the Nose by Thee, will Quit thee, for a Scoundril, who Can't Talk and Rave at Randoms, but Knows nothing, nor Can't Answer to any thing. Thou hast Appeal'd to the Law. Let the Law then be Judge. If thou Can't not Answer to these Acts of Parliament here Objected, thou art Gon! Gon! As Dead as a Herring. And the Law which thou hast Abus'd may take Hold on thee, Tho' thou think'st that there will be no Righteous Proceedings in any of our Courts of Justice, as long as our present Judges are in Being, Thou wast then out of their Clutches. And thought'st it wou'd never be Day. Or whose Hands thou might'st come into.

Thou must Answer likewise for calling the Abdication of the late K. James, a Deposing of him, and Divesting him of all his Regalities, and making him a Fugitive on the Earth. As thou do'st in

thy *Observer*, Vol. 2. N. 89. Whereas, to Avoid all these Odious Imputations, and the Breach of our Laws, which allow not of Deposing our Kings, the Wisdom of the Convention found out the Abdication. And thou, like a Blockhead, Mak'st them all one. Thou a Vindicator of the Revolution! Thou mak'st the Revolution as Black as the 30th of January. In which thou do'st Rejoyce, and Compar'st them together, as Equally Glorious Acts. Did our Fore-Fathers (say'st thou) De-Truncat the Father? Did not we Depose the Son? And may not future Ages examine the Difference betwixt the De-Collation, and the Abdication? Is this a Vindicating of the Revolution? If Great Strefs had not been laid upon the Vacancy of the Throne, and the Abdication (to Avoid the Odium of a Deposition) these Words had not Endur'd such Tough Debates. And thou now givest them up, after thy Master Julian Johnson, who wou'd have it an Ab-Renunciation. And made a Fool of that too.

Obf. And thou'lt make a Fool of me too, if I have been Writing all this while against the Revolution.

Country-m. Most certainly, Sir, you have been in the wrong Box. You have been Writing for your Old Puffs a Common-Wealth. And either Willfully or Ignorantly Mistook the Point of the Revolution. And Compar'd'st to Forty-One, even to Forty-Eight.

Obf. I hope they'll put it upon my Ignorance. For who can think, That I could otherwise have been so Cursedly Impudent, as to Justify the De-Collation of the Queen's Royal Grand-Father; the Deposition (as I call it) of her Father, and making him a Fugitive upon the Earth, like Cain, to set up the Deposing Doctrine, and Power of the People to do the same by his Daughter; And, in order to it, to Blacken her Ministry, openly and above-board, to all the Nation: Besides running my self into a Direct Premunire by the Statute 13 Car. 2. chap. 1. to set up a Legislative in the Nation without the King. And, which Grieves me more than all this, to Cast such an Eternal Blot upon my Dear and Immortal King William, as to make him the Author of all this; and just a Counter-Part to our Glorious and Immortal Oliver. I.

I profess I thought the Revolution had proceeded upon the same Principles of Forty-One. And that no one cou'd have found Fault with the One, without Condemning of the Other. I never thought of Abdication, or did not Understand it. But hereafter, I'll learn to Understand, before I Write.

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